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GMTA MONTPELIER CIRCULATOR

April 13, 2011-Public Hearing
Montpelier City Hall/Memorial Room
12:00PM

In Attendance

GMTA Representatives:

David Armstrong, CCTA/GMTA Planner
Timothy Bradshaw, GMTA Regional Manager
Tawnya Kristen, GMTA Community Relations Manager

General Public:

Mike Tatro	Irene Badeau
Genevieve Olson	Margaret Archibald
Iren Nehler	Polly Ellerbe
Carolyn Stone	Michael Arnowitz
Nancy Sherman	Harris Webster
Cheryl Ann Bloomfield	Amber Denoss(sp?)
Angela Timpone	Susan Weber

Meeting Summary

Mr. Armstrong provided introductions of GMTA staff and thanked all those in attendance prior to beginning the power point presentation. Mr. Armstrong offered detailed commentary in addition to a visual presentation regarding the history of a proposed Circulator service, current planning process and the particulars of the draft schedule including factors to be considered. Directly following the presentation, the opportunity for public comment and questions was provided. The following are specific comments from the public and certain responses provided by GMTA staff.

- A request was made to GMTA to consider offering interchangeable service between Terrace Street and Freedom to serve both areas. It was recognized that this would only offer a very limited amount of frequency for both areas and may not be the best utilization of service hours to capture a consistent ridership base.
- The deviation procedure was questioned and reviewed. GMTA staff noted that due to the limited amount of service hours available, deviations should be looked at as a viable option to help meet a greater area of need without adversely affecting service. Currently, the deviation policy is to have passengers call at least 24 hours in advance to allow for the best coordination of service. However, to accommodate areas of high need who are not currently receiving a fixed stop, GMTA is evaluating the possibility of same day deviation requests for the Circulator service.
- Mr. Armstrong reviewed the term 'headways' to provide a better understanding of how a route is planned looking at 15 minute, 30 minute and 1 hour headways, or wait time of



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service. 15 minutes being the most ideal to ensure ridership and one hour being acceptable though not exceptional.

- Residents of both 3 Prospect Street and Murray Hill requested that GMTA reconsider making their respective area a fixed stop location vs. a request or deviation option. GMTA stated they will carefully review this possibility in route change while taking into consideration any factors that may adversely affect determined time points. GMTA staff also encouraged residents to consider the deviation option as an opportunity to demonstrate high ridership which would support a route change in the future. Both areas' residents strongly supported a more flexible deviation policy if an actual fixed stop could not be offered at this time.
- There were several comments regarding the cost of the route and the possibility of operating a second bus to better meet the obvious need and large coverage area. GMTA staff reviewed the cost of service along with the limited available local and state funding to support what would equate to double the cost of the current service. There was a mention of approaching private businesses such as National Life for funding support.

In closing, Mr. Armstrong asked the group to offer their general opinion on the presented service. The majority of those present responded that they were pleased with the current proposal and greatly appreciated GMTA's efforts in planning the service given the obstacles of limited service hours, diverse geography and a variety of competing goals. Contact information for additional comments and questions was provided.

The public hearing concluded at 1:45PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:
Tawnya Kristen- GMTA Community Relations Manager

